

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

September 14, 2004

Over the past eight years, the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles World Airport officials have proposed a Master Plan for expansion at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The current Master Plan and Master Plan EIR/EIS will be presented before the Los Angeles City Council for a vote as early as late October. The Master Plan EIR/EIS is an unwieldy 12,500 page document that confusingly addresses five separate LAX expansion plans. If approved, the recently touted “consensus plan” could conceivably allow officials to implement expansion improvements and push capacity at LAX from today’s 61 million annual passengers (MAP) upwards of 90 MAP without any further necessary environmental analysis.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has been consistent in its stance on LAX expansion. The Board has supported (1) resolutions to cap LAX growth at 78 MAP, with a formula to reduce gates at LAX once this level is attained, per the recommendation of the Southern California Association of Governments’ (SCAG) Regional Aviation Plan and (2) resolutions to support traffic mitigation, such as the Arbor Vitae on-ramp/off-ramp, diamond lanes for the 405 freeway LAX corridor north to the 10 freeway, and development of an off-ramp at Imperial Avenue. The Board continues to support a regional approach as a solution for future cargo and passenger

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expansion needs, allowing other airports in the region (Palmdale, Ontario, and the three Inland Empire airports) which want to grow to do so.

In addition, the Board has provided a list of proposed improvements for LAX expansion compiled by our airport consultant Andy Lazzaretto and Associates, who has extended the Board's offer to meet and discuss our concerns about the shortcomings of the Master Plan EIR/EIS.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors oppose the LAX Master Plan and Master Plan EIR/EIS based on the following reasons: (1) the recommendations and findings of our County Airport Land Use Commission hearings on August 16, 2004 and August 25, 2004; (2) that the baseline data in the EIR/EIS is almost 10 years old and is out dated; (3) poor air quality and increase traffic impacts and (4) numerous environmental justice issues which have not been addressed. In addition, the Board should instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate staff from the County Departments of Public Works, County Counsel, Regional Planning, and the County's airport consultant to appear at the upcoming City of Los Angeles Standing Committee meeting, chaired by Councilmember Tony Cardenas, and Los Angeles City Council meeting to state the Board's position on this important regional issue.

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